

## ECOSYSTEM ADVISORY SUBPANEL REPORT ON CLIMATE AND COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE UPDATE

The Ecosystem Advisory Subpanel (EAS) appreciates Report 1 provided by the Ad-hoc Ecosystem Workgroup (EWG) and recognizes the hard work done to produce the report, especially given the Federal government shutdown. At the time we developed this report, we did not yet have access to the EWG's supplemental report.

Regarding scenario planning topics and process, we note that there is some interplay between the two. The scenario planning process should elucidate and refine topics, and may involve multiple proposed topics addressed within the same process. For example, consideration of the regional mosaic topic at the orientation and exploration phases could lead to consideration of the impacts on rockfish at the application and monitoring phases.

### *Topics*

Given we are at the beginning of the scenario planning process; the EAS believes choosing broader topics will allow the scientists and experts engaged in the scenario planning process to recommend how to focus them, and ensure that we are addressing climate change from a cross-fishery and cross-jurisdictional standpoint. Topics that address climate regime changes or climate drivers are logical places to start that support a wider-ranging scenario planning process.

Of the topics proposed by the EWG, we think that "regional mosaics" is most congruent with our understanding of how scenario planning works. We also recommend using the National Marine Fisheries Service Climate Vulnerability Assessment where possible and considering population shifts.

### *Process*

We support the approach outlined by the EWG in Report 1 on page 6, that draws on the National Park Service example and engages stakeholders, scientists, and resource managers. This provides a tested process that can be uniquely adapted for Council needs. The EAS notes that the orientation phase of a scenario planning process is important and supports the development of a "core team" as recommended by the OC/TNC/Wild Oceans/NRDC public comment letter.

In addition to the above recommendations on topics and process, we note that successful scenario planning has analogies with emergency planning. Examining extreme conditions is an important element of any topic chosen. Also, while the primary purpose of this initiative is to help the Council prepare for climate variability and change, ideally the scenario planning process will identify management approaches and other ideas that go beyond Council action and can be implemented through other channels such as industry innovation, state action, port or local community planning, new science, or other Federal actions. Finally, we appreciate the continued focus on communities, and encourage the Council to continue to include the communities aspect of the initiative regardless of topic or process.

Regardless of direction, the EAS would like to be involved in any scenario planning process that evolves.